ISSUE
NO. 08

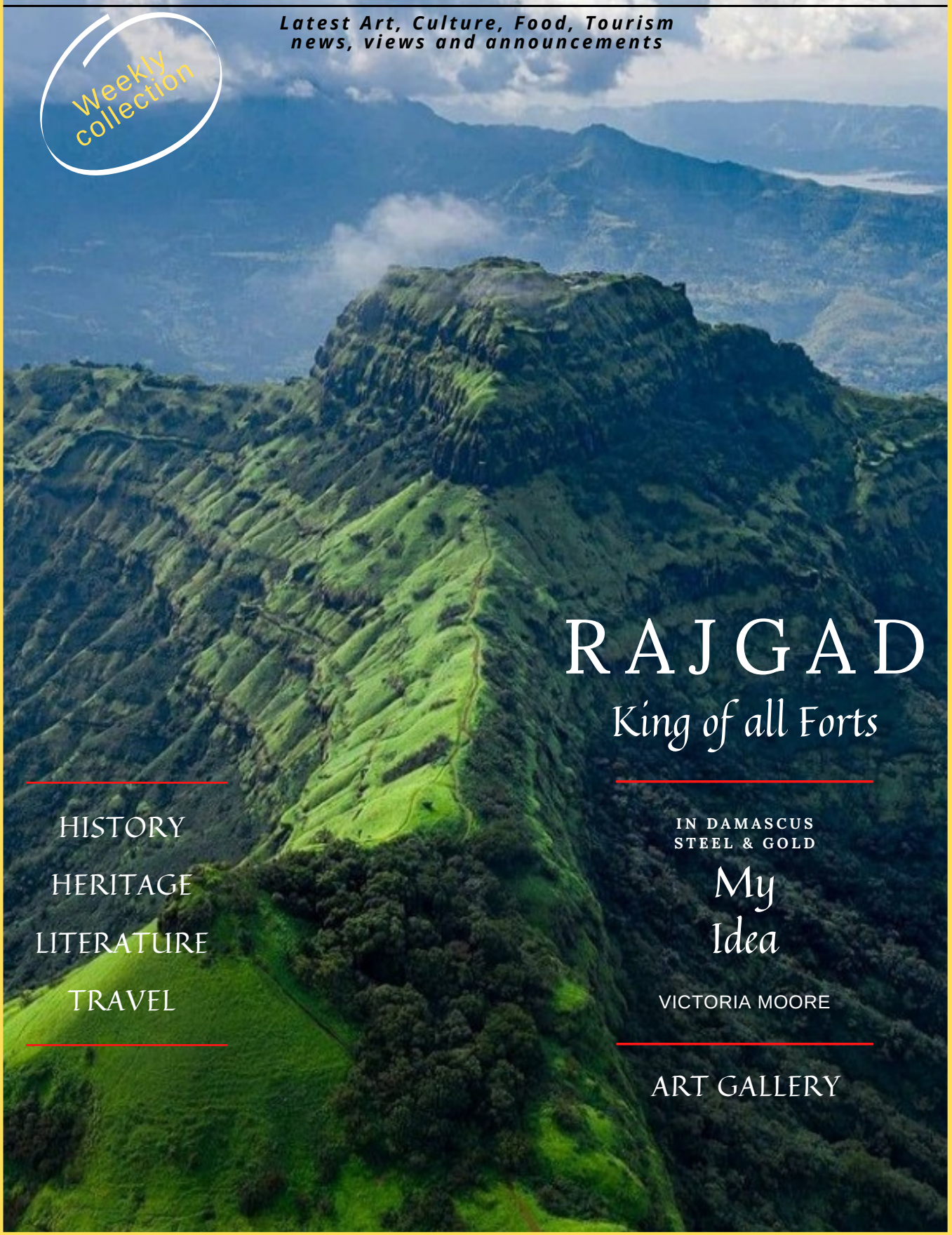
FIRST OF ITS KIND IN KERALA
CULTURAL WEEKLY eMAGAZINE

JUN 04 - 10
2021

INK OCHI

Latest Art, Culture, Food, Tourism news, views and announcements

Weekly collection



RAJGAD

King of all Forts

HISTORY
HERITAGE
LITERATURE
TRAVEL

IN DAMASCUS STEEL & GOLD

My Idea

VICTORIA MOORE

ART GALLERY

Editor's Note

WHY WE NEED TO CONSERVE OUR CULTURAL SPACE

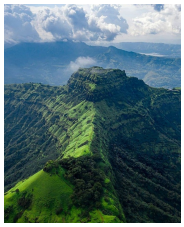
Cultural Space – where people can feel engaged and part of something bigger than themselves is just as relevant as it's always been. The postmodern culture of irony and pastiche is over, having been replaced by a post-ideological condition that stresses engagement, affect, and storytelling. Simply put, people want to be engaged; no longer spoken to, but to enter into the dialogue. Unfortunately the Covid pandemic has applied the clutch, but we will overcome this situation.

Engaging through cultural space is perhaps the most effective method of invested, interested engagement. Through its preservation and promotion, you expose people to new opportunities of exploration, as well as bringing together vastly different types with one shared interest; something that's worth nurturing.

The preservation of cultural space is not something that should be underestimated. Its social effects can be exponential in building communities and movements whilst nurturing startups and supporting local business.

Happy Reading...!!

Varghese T. Thomas



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Artwork for Sale

Title: Paddy Field

Code: INK145

Artist: Shashank Shukla

Medium: Watercolour

Surface: Art paper – Rolled

Size: 12x10 inches

Price: Rs.12000/-

Contact:
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8547107471

Artwork for Sale

Code: INK146

Artist: Tessy John
Medium: Acrytic
Surface: Canvas – Framed
Size: 22x16 inches
Price: Rs.5000/-

Title: Radha Krishna

Symbolises the eternal love between Radha and Krishna.
I always believe that we can do everything with love, compassion, devotion and humanity.

Contact:
WhatsApp
8547107471

Artwork for Sale

Title: Shards of Blue

A Zentangle artwork.
This sytle of artwork is non-representational and unplanned
so as to focus on each stroke and
get a unique end result.

Artist: Diya Ann Sajan
Medium: Gel and Micron pens
Surface: Cartridge sheet
Size: A2
Price: Rs.12000/-

Code: INK147

Contact:
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8547107471

Artwork for Sale

Code: INK148

Title: Poppy Garden

Artist: Sunil De Linus

Medium: Watercolour

Colours: Artist watercolor

Surface: Handmade Paper 440gsm
Cold pressed – Rolled

Size: 11x15 inches

Price: Rs.20000/-

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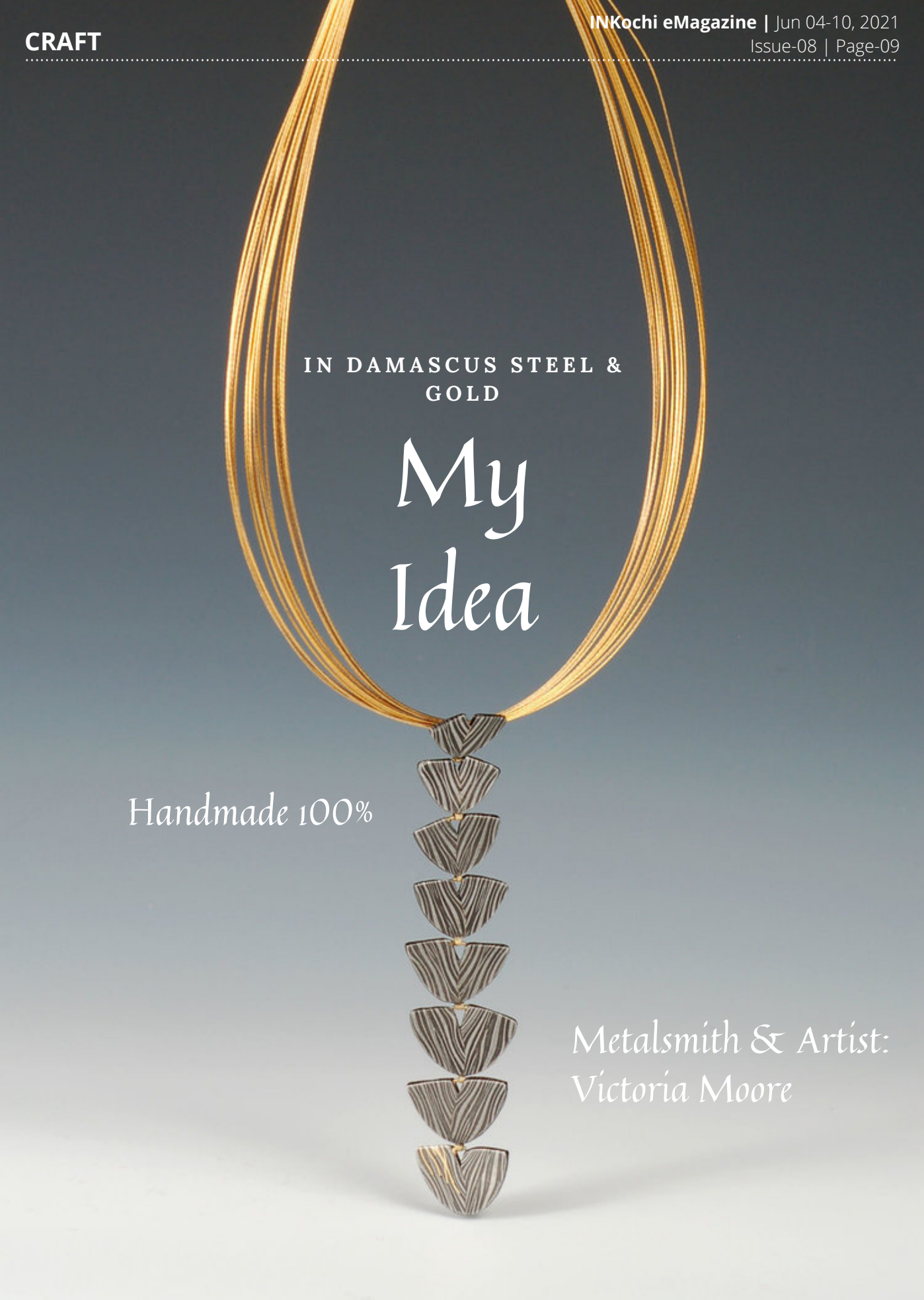
IN DAMASCUS STEEL &
GOLD
My
Idea
Handmade 100%
Metalsmith & Artist:
Victoria Moore

CRAFT

IN DAMASCUS STEEL & GOLD

My Idea

Handmade 100%

Reproduced by:
Varghese T Thomas

I make beautiful and unique objects entirely by hand. My work starts with creating my own raw materials that are then forged, fabricated, knit and dyed into useful and endearing art objects.

One body of my work is created from exquisitely patterned steel called Damascus Steel. I forge together bars of steel and iron while they are blazing hot. The finished objects I make from this metal are jewelry, utensils and tools. >>>

7C Interiors
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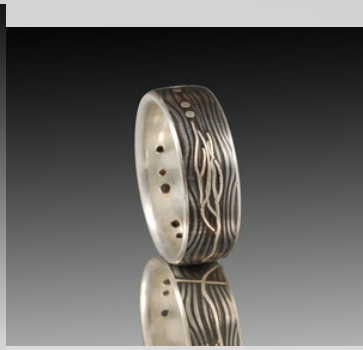
Only at Thoppumpady - Kochi

My childhood was full of making little things and always carrying some project with me to work on. I still do this, always with some object in progress. It is easy for me to define myself as a maker and builder of things. I received a BA in sculpture from the University of Maryland in 1991, and an MFA concentrating in metalsmithing from Rochester Institute of Technology's School for American Craft in 1996.

IN DAMASCUS STEEL & GOLD

My Idea



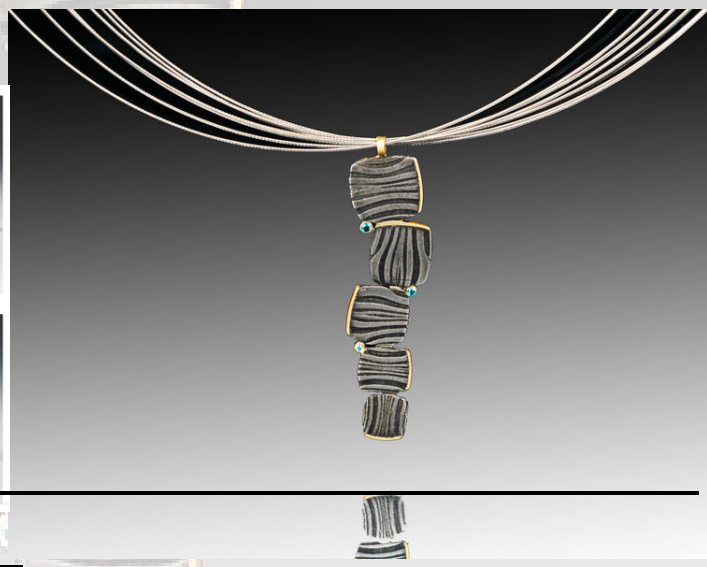
After graduate school, I began my business with utensils and vessels made of the patterned metal that I still work. Now I feel drawn to the intimacy of the little forms of which jewelry is made, and a structural freedom in working on this scale in relation to the human form. Working with this uniquely patterned steel coupled with radiating gold has been genuinely exciting. I enjoy the closeness I feel with each piece that comes from my studio, the complete creation of metal that I have made. >>>

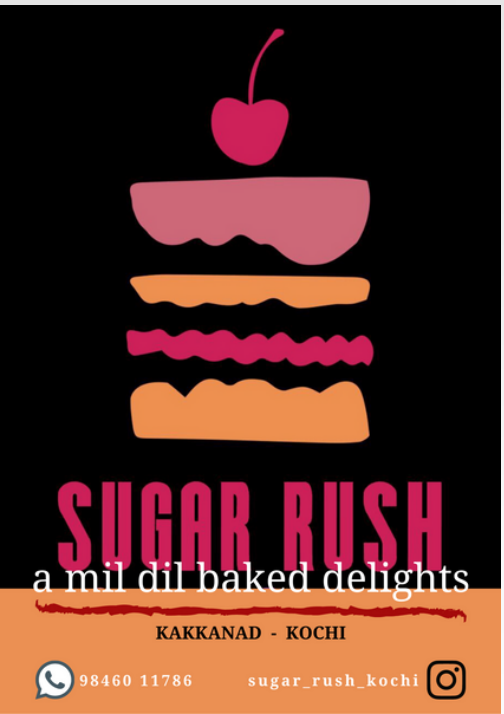
STAR QUALITY AWARD PARIS
World Quality Commitment Award for Sustainable Eco Tourism
WILD elephant
WHISPERING GLADE BACK TO NATURE
MANKULAM MUNNAR
MIRACLE m.u.d.h.o.u.s.e
THE wild trails MUNNAR

Metalsmith Victoria Moore works primarily in steel to create exquisitely patterned jewelry. The expected application of steel as a macho structural material inspires her to rebel against that expectation to create forms and surfaces from steel and other metals that are personal, feminine, soft and tactile.Victoria Moore's core technique is Damascus steel, a layered steel that has origins in Middle Eastern sword-making from 1100 to 1700 AD. <>

IN DAMASCUS STEEL & GOLD

My Idea





Travel

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RAJGAD

King of all Forts

Rajgad Fort is one of the grand forts of the Sahaydris and lies at an altitude of 1400 m (4, 600 feet). Formerly known as Murumdev, Rajgad Fort was the capital of the Maratha Empire during the rule of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj for 25 years, before moving the capital to Raigad Fort. The Rajgad Fort was built with the treasure found on the adjacent Torna Fort. This was one of the favourite forts of Shivaji Maharaj and he stayed the most in this fort. Many historical events took place in this fort, such as the birth of Shivaji's son, Rajaram Chhatrapati, his queen, Saibai's death and Afzal Khan's head is buried in the fort.

Text & Photos by:
Shivaram N. Baru

At a distance of 54 km from Pune, Rajgad is an ancient hill fort situated in the Pune district of Maharashtra. It is one of the top tourist places in Pune and also one of the popular places of trekking in Maharashtra.

The fort is divided into four parts, Padmavati Machi, Suvela Machi, Sanjeevani Machi, and Balekilla (small fort). The fort is an example of splendid design and construction. The diameter of the fort at the base is 40 km making it difficult for anybody to lay siege to it. >>>

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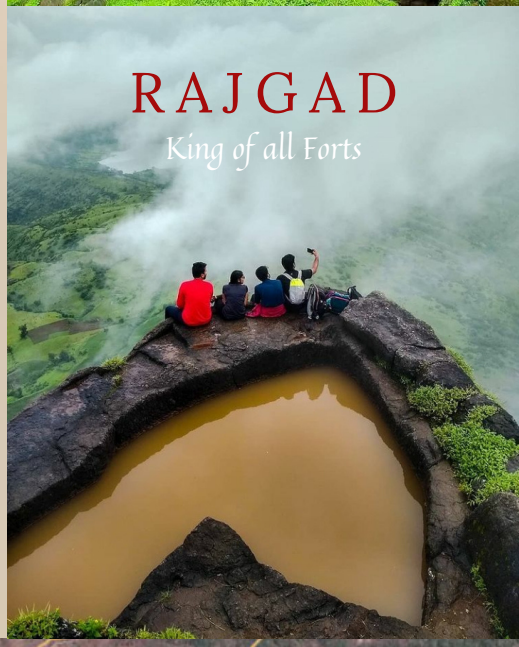
Sanjeevani Machi: The three layer fortification of Sanjeevani Machi is simply a marvel and is located on the southwest end. This extends approximately for 2.5 km along with many cisterns. The lower layers of the fort were separated by fortified bastion along with gate in order to defend independently. There is also an underground escape route which leads directly to the outermost fortification

Suvela Machi: Suvela Machi, located on the eastern part of Rajgad fort, is a narrow strip that leads to a fortified end. Before the fortifications, there is a Hanuman temple and towards the right of the hanuman temple is Nedh. Nedh is a giant hole on the rock face about 3 m in diameter carved by years of erosion. >>>



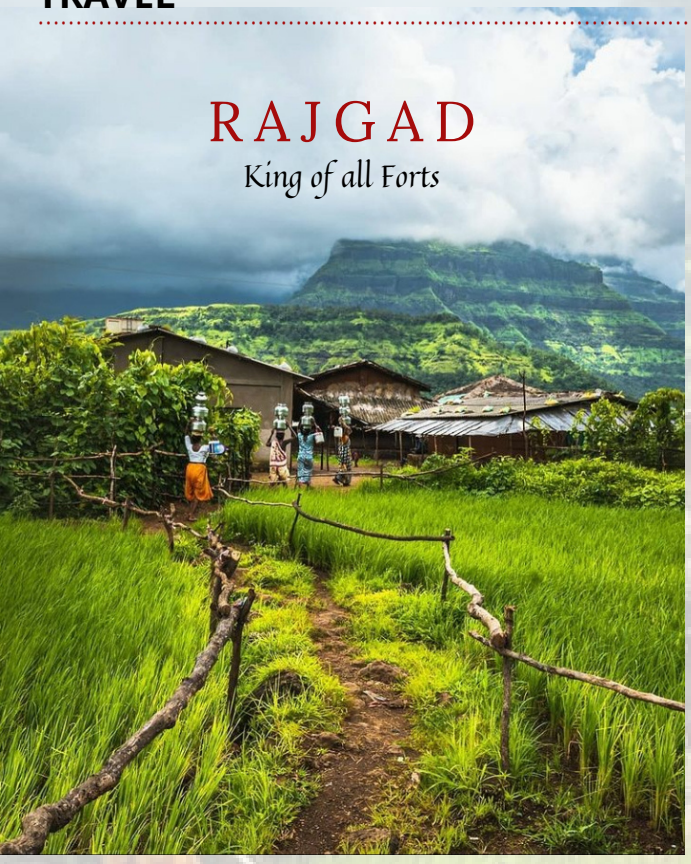
TRAVEL

RAJGAD

King of all Forts

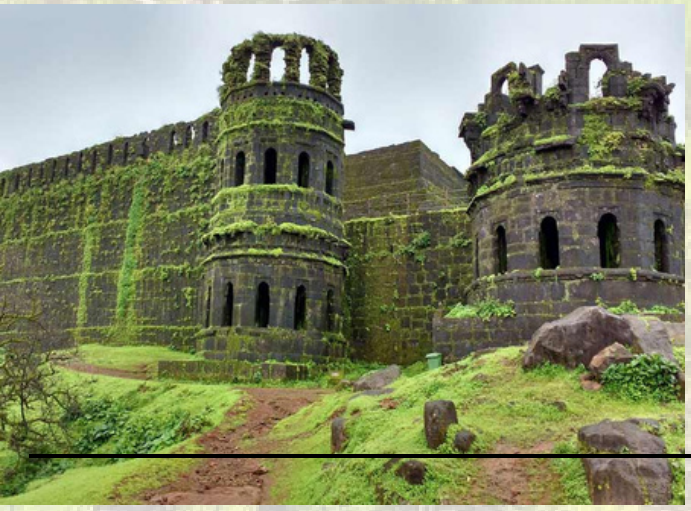
Padmavati Machi: This part of Rajgad Fort was a military base as well as a residential area. The Padmavati Machi has a Lake, Padmavati Temple, Pali Darwaja, Chor Dwaraja, Gunjawane Darwaja, Diwankhana, Daru Kothar, Rajwada, and Ghod Tale. Besides these there is also a Samadhi of Saibai, Shivaji's first wife.

Balekilla: This site is one of the highest parts in the Fort Rajgad that includes caves, water cisterns and palaces. The entrance door of the Balekilla is called as Maha Dwaraja. From here, one can easily view the whole fort. >>



Rajgad is amongst the most popular trekking destinations near Pune. There are several trekking routes to reach the Fort. Trek to Padmavati Machi via Chor Darwaja is the most popular route and the trek starts from Gunjawane village. From Gunjawane the 4.5 km trek is a little bit tough and it takes almost 3 1/2 hours to reach Padmavati Machi. One needs to navigate a steep rocky incline to reach Chor Darwaza.

The trek via Pali Darwaza is a simple climb and it starts from Pali village. The 3.5 km trek from Pali should take approximately 2 hours to reach the fort. There is another route called Bhor route which starts from Bhutonde. From Bhutonde village, a 3 –4 hours trek will take visitors to Alu Darwaja of Rajgad. This route is not popular as other two routes. It is always recommended that visitors should carry their own drinking water and food. <>



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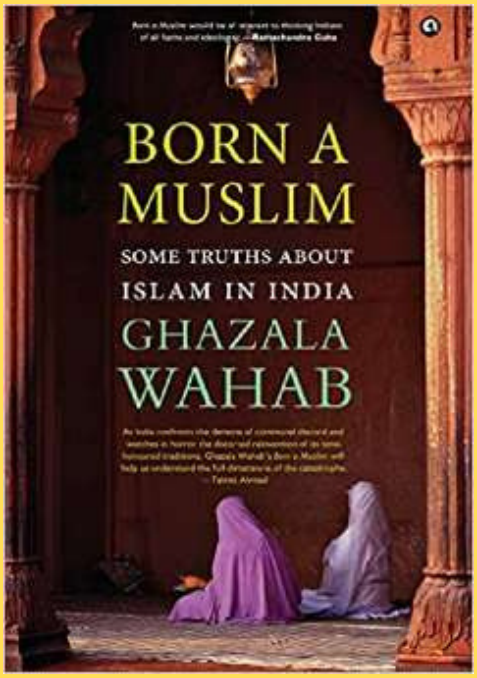
BOOK Review



By Arman Khan

The book analyses the nuances of the problems plaguing Muslims in India

Part memoir, part history, part marvelous storytelling

The roots of the Indian Muslim story can be traced back to the latent hypocrisy shown by successive governments, starting from the colonial period. The widespread cow protection riots of the late 19th century effectively alienated Muslims from the Indian National Congress (because it stayed neutral) and spurred the formation of the Muslim League.

This book is a powerful reflection on what it means to be Muslim in modern India. Born a Muslim is a remarkable book: a rare synthesis of lived experience and the roar of history. This is a sensitive and deeply empathetic book on the place and predicament of Muslims in India.

Drawing on the memoir, reportage, and documentary analysis, it contains many moving stories of individuals across class and regional divides, with these case studies skilfully located in a wider political and historical context. The book tracks the history of the religion from its revelation in Arabia in the seventh century to its spread through many parts of the world.

The author takes a clear-eyed look at every aspect of Islam in India today. She examines the factors that have stalled the socio-economic and intellectual growth of Indian Muslims and attribute both internal factors—such as a disproportionate reliance on the ulema—as well as external ones that have contributed to the backwardness of the community.

She shows at length, and with great empathy and understanding, what it is like to live as a Muslim in India and provides suggestions on how their lot might be improved.

An important and timely intervention in our public discourse, Born a Muslim would be of interest to thinking Indians of all faiths and ideologies. Fusing memory and history, this is a poignant state-of-the-community report that every Indian should read.

POEM

The Road Not Taken :

Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Take a look Before it's Gone

A pavillion tomb in Zafarabad near Jaunpur about to meet its maker having been taken over partly by nature. There are multiple tombs of this type in Jaunpur environs which suffer the same fate.

Contribution: Muhibb Khan

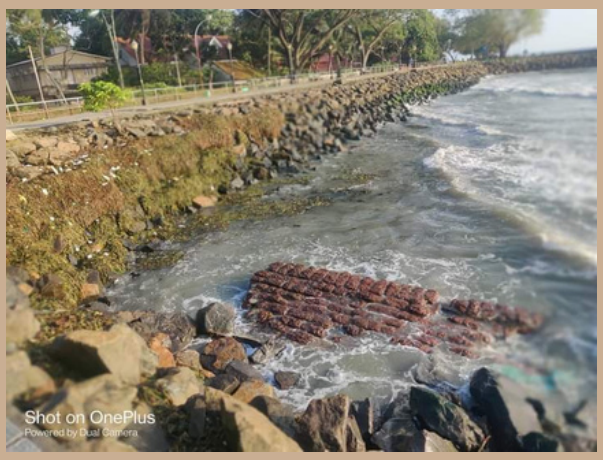
Heritage & History

Ancient Bharatiya Stone Chain Craft. It is found in several temples and architect marvels throughout the country. This stone chain is located at Gaurishvara. Temple which is located in the town of Yelandur, Chamarajanagar district of Karnataka.

The closed hall has images of various Vishnu, Shanmukha, Parvati, Mahishasuramardini (a form of the goddess Durga), Bhairava (a form of Shiva), Durga, Virabhadra (another form of Shiva) and Ganapati. The walls of the entrance are heavily decorated with reliefs depicting scenes from the puranic stories and the epics. An unusual decoration provided to the entrance are the chains of stone rings (bale).

Contribution: Srinivas Shamachar

Heritage & History



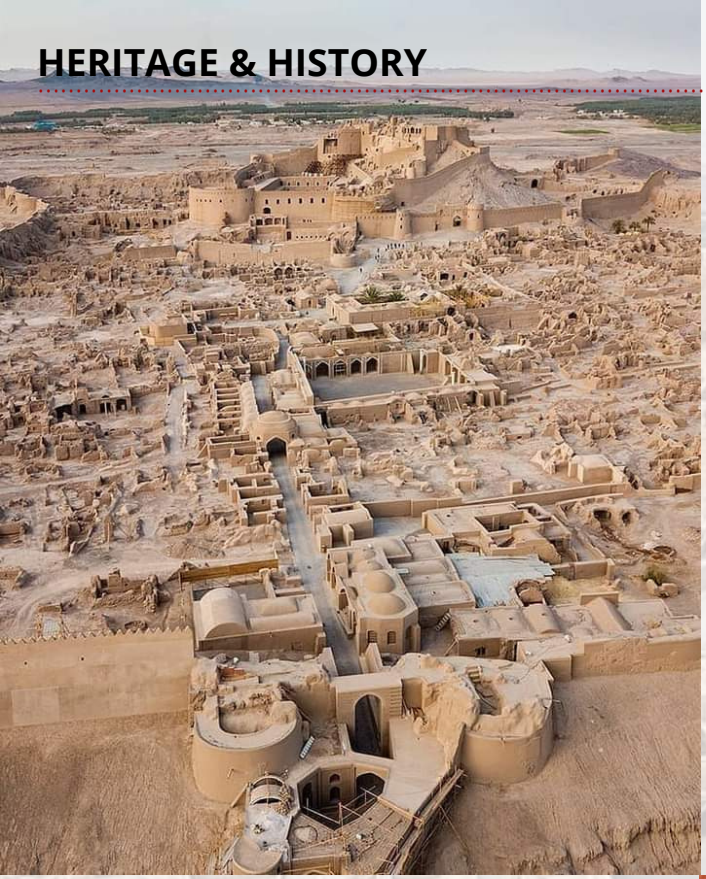
Remaining of Fort Emmanuel built in 1503 by the Portuguese became visible last week when seawater receded following low tide along the Fort Kochi beach, Kochi, Kerala – a laterite structure. It is believed the fist Fort made by a European in Asia.

Contribution: Santosh Tom George / Vasco Home Stay, Fort Kochi

Shri Radha Rani Temple, Barsana. Holika Dahan also known as Kamudu pyre is celebrated by burning Holika, an asura. For many traditions in Hinduism, Holi celebrates the killing of Holika in order to save Prahlad, a devotee of God Vishnu and thus Holi gets its name.

Contribution: Brijesh Dhobi

Heritage & History



The Arg-e Bam also known as Bam Citadel, located at the city of Bam, Kerman Province of Southeastern Iran, traced back to at least the Achaemenide Empire (sixth to fourth centuries BC).

Contribution: Tondra Neel

A gun hidden within a bible, made for Francesco Morozini, Doge of Venice (1619-1694). The owner of the bible could pull the silk bookmark to shoot while the book was still closed. Now on display at the Museo Correr in Venice.

Contribution: Tondra Neel

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Heritage & History

This is one of the astonishing pieces .... I have ever collected. **First ever drawings** of the moon made by Galileo Galeili after observing it through his telescope in 1609.

Contribution: Tondra Neel

Contribution: Gunjan Mitra

What goes up, always comes down. Well, that may not always be true.

Krishna's butterball, also known as Vaan Irai Kal, is a 250 ton, 20 feet high and 5 feet wide, stone boulder perfectly round in shape, located in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu. The boulder is precariously perched on a slippery slope of a hill on a 4 feet base. Seemingly, defying all known laws of gravity the stone appears to be frozen in time. In local mythology, the stone is believed to be a dollop of purloined butter dropped by the Hindu god Krishna, who is notorious in Hindu mythology for stealing butter in his infancy.

The immovable nature of the rock has earned it the term Vaanirai Kal, which in Tamil translates to Stone of the Sky God. According to popular legend, it was the Pallava King

Narasimhavarman who first attempted to move the rock. This endeavour however, proved to be unsuccessful.

In 1908, the Governor of Madras, Arthur Lawley, once again set out with the aim of moving the stone from its place. Local sources confirm, he brought in seven elephants to move the rock but it did not budge an inch.

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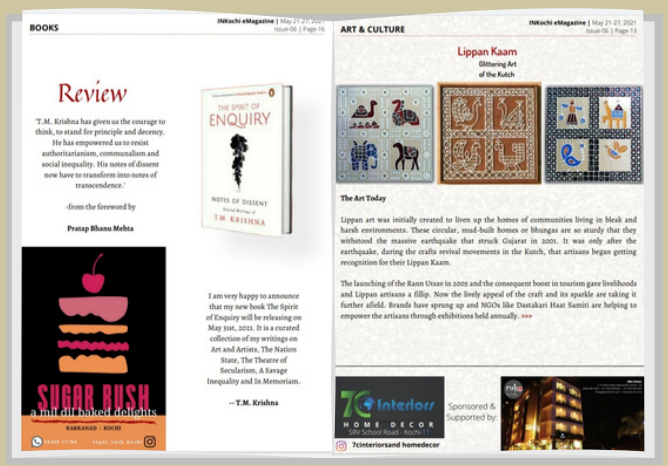
BOOKS
Review
ENQUIRY
NOTES OF DISSENT
T.M. KRISHNA
Pratap Bhanu Mehta
I am very happy to announce that my new book The Spirit of Enquiry will be releasing on May 31st, 2021. It is a curated collection of my writings on Art and Artists, The Nation State, The Theatre of Secularism, A Savage Inequality and In Memoriam.
-- T.M. Krishna
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